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# THE MENACE

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## AN APOSTLE OF OBSCENITY PASSES

BY WALTER HURT

Saint Anthony Comstock is dead. It is under the Federal statute framed by him, and known as the United States Comstock Law—a law conceived and designed not to conserve public morals and serve the dictates of decency, but for the purposes of blackmail and to suppress publications like *The Menace* which have become dangerous or offensive to certain powerful institutions and interests, and which never has been invoked except to gain such ends—it is under this law that four members of *The Menace* staff have been indicted on seven separate counts with the undoubted intention of railroad-ing them to the penitentiary.

It was under this law that I myself was indicted on nine counts in the Federal court in Cleveland nearly seventeen years ago. After a three-year's fight this indictment was not pressed, which action constituted an admission of my innocence.

WERE THIS LAW OPERATIVE AGAINST REAL OBSCENITY, IT WOULD PUNISH CATHOLIC PERVERTS WHO FLOOD THE MENACE OFFICE WITH LETTERS OF AP-PALLING FILTH.

It never has been my disposition to kick a corpse. I have no desire to roast the dead; and in the case of Comstock such a process on my part would seem a supererogation. Nor shall it ever be said of me that I attacked a dead man. For I am not now writing about a man, but a crawling creature who was below even classification in brute creation, and who, if common report be true, had descended beyond the lowest depths which it is possible for the plummet of degradation to sound.

By those who had opportunity to know the truth, Comstock was reputed to be a degenerate of the most loathsome type, addicted to practices which are nameless even in the unhallowed nomenclature of the pape.

Nevertheless, it is not Comstock, but the spirit of Comstockism which in him was personified, that I attack.

Had Comstock been what he purported himself to be, I would indorse and applaud him. But he was the hollowest of hypocrites. His mind was infested with maggots. Nothing could be more obscene than was Comstock himself; among those who knew him for what he really was, his very name is a synonym for obscenity.

ALL HIS LIFE AFTER HE FASTENED HIMSELF TO THE FEDERAL PAYROLL HE WAS A PROFESSIONAL BLACK-MAILER.

The least of his offenses was that he permitted his aged parents to die in the almshouse, which is a matter of public record.

I recall the words with which once I described his character—"a character in which brutality stands forth as fiercely as the red scar that blazes on his brazen cheek."

Personally, I oppose the obscene and abhor it with all the intensity of my nethermost nature. Every print, picture or object of actual obscenity I would wish to see instantly erased from existence. Of whatever Comstock in the course of his career incidentally may have done to suppress such things, I am genuinely glad. But to him such action WAS incidental, and made necessary by his pretensions. During his official activities he acquired a personal collection of books and pictures of unthinkable lewdness, which he treasured as a miser cherishes his gold, and in which it is said he reveled in private as the maggot revels in a carrion-carcase.

And this is the person who presumed to pose as the conservator of a nation's morals! The intolerable insolence of the thing, with all its holy humbug and Himalayan hypocrisy, is what for me exhausts the ultimate possibilities of linguistic expression.

Of Comstock dead I now say nothing which I have not said of Comstock living—said repeatedly and brought conspicuously to his notice, and which in the grossness of his guilt he never dared to deny.

Let us have done with gentle lies about the dead. The Grey Change does not alter any person's character. Were one a beast in life, the Last Transition does not transform his attributes. And Comstock was a beast of such foulness that his carcass is not fit for fertilization even of the wind-swept fields of the open lands.

So I pass him from a deserved denunciation to his just damnation.

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hypocrite to the extent of mis-stating the true position of Rome. In his round with Schrembs, Phelan made no attempt to conceal his contempt for clergy of German origin.

He believed firmly that the Irish people are the preferred assistants of Italian popes; that such a thing as a German bishop is nothing more nor less than an upstart and interloper; and that when he repudiates the allegiance of papists to their pope, he is uttering blas-

phemy. No wonder it took the apostolic delegate to cage Phelan and restore safety to Schrembs.

With the passing of Phelan the last priest big enough, brave enough, and bull-headed enough to preach the true purpose of Rome, is gone. Rome's political pie-hunters now have none but trimmers and hedgers in Romish pulpits and on Romish rags. From now on everything will be sugar-coated and salved over with priestly professions of fealty to govern-

ment. Rome's redactors now can prate and prattle about Rome's undying love for the public school with none on the inside to call them down.

Had Phelan served God with the same fidelity that he served his pope, he would have been the greatest Irishman of all history. As it was, he was all too good for his job; and it is to be hoped that in the day of last judgment this latter may not weigh too heavily against him.

## GREATER DAYTON ASSOCIATION ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK CONVENTION

American Federation of Patriotic Societies Meet Romish Intrigue on Eve of Convention at Dayton, Ohio—Most Infamous Instance of Papal Perfidy Yet Revealed—Masons Tender Temple and Rome is Thwarted—Halls Closed, Press Muzzled and Citizens Aroused—Patriotic Spirit Prevails and a Great Convention Is Held—Pittsburgh Chosen for 1916 Meeting

THE annual convention of the American Federation of Patriotic Societies opened in the Masonic Temple, Dayton, Ohio, September 16 and closed September 18. Perhaps 2,000 delegates and hundreds of visitors were in attendance having gathered from every section of the United States.

These able, earnest and honest defenders of American liberty and free institutions were gathered in protest against papal treachery, to consider ways and means for arresting the onward sweep of Romish despotism, to sound a warning of impending danger. In every sense the convention was a success, and the fight against papal tyranny and oppression, treacherous hate and infamous intrigue, goes forward from that convention with added vigor and renewed vitality. There will be no retreat.

Our readers will remember that it was planned and definitely arranged to hold this convention in the Panama-Pacific Exposition grounds at San Francisco. The invitation to do so was extended by the Exposition officials and accepted by the Federation and a contract made to that effect. Plans were being perfected to that end when word came like a thunderbolt from a clear sky that the invitation was recalled and the contract broken without explanation or justification.

ROME HAD CUNNINGLY INTERFERED AND BLOCKED THE GAME.

An effort was made to change the date to meet the situation and adjust the difficulty, but no plea was available. No readjustment of arrangements were considered.

The American Federation of Patriotic Societies WAS BARRED FROM THE EXPOSITION GROUNDS—THEY WERE NOT WANTED! Rome was in command and her word was law!

The Jesuit Fathers, who, perhaps, had a large part in the infamous outrage, were welcomed by the Exposition and held a "holy" show within the gates through which a body of patriotic delegates could not pass.

The obedient and cunningly trained servants of the pope were received with open arms while prominent, respected, conscientious citizens, thousands of them, were scorned, repelled, refused admittance, by the cold and calculating cruelty of Romish influence.

Rome closed the gates at San Francisco against American manhood even as she closes the gates of her prisons against the laws American citizens have made.

Baiting the Trap

Dayton, Ohio, was chosen by the Federation as the convention city after the frost at Frisco. How was it chosen? Listen!

Dayton has an organization of citizens known as the "Greater Dayton Association" whose purpose is supposed to be the advancement of Dayton's welfare; the advertisement of that city as a good place to live in, and a good place to invest money in. The business of the Greater Dayton Association is to place that city in a favorable and attractive light before the rest of the world.

After the San Francisco invitation had been accepted by the Federation, S. H. Ankney, publicity

and convention manager of the Greater Dayton Association, wrote to D. J. Reynolds, president of the A. F. of P. S., intimating that Dayton would like to secure the convention. On April 23 Mr. Reynolds took the matter up with Ankney and stated that there was a possibility of a change in plans and asked what inducements Dayton had to offer and what hotel and auditorium accommodations could be had.

In that letter Mr. Reynolds WARNED MR. ANKNEY against making any rash promises and gave him every opportunity to know the nature of the convention. We quote from Mr. Reynolds' letter:

"We are strictly, as you will note by the enclosed literature, a patriotic and non-political organization, standing squarely upon the principles enunciated by the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States. If you have any Roman Catholics on your Board of Directors, who are influential, they will fight you to a stand-still to prevent our organization from meeting there, as they always do elsewhere, being avowedly the enemies of free speech. I thought proper to give you this word of warning so that you might not make any overtures to us that you would afterwards have reason to regret."

That was a fair, square, statement of principle and possible circumstances which might induce friction in the Romish camp. Ankney was given an opportunity to let the matter drop right there if he feared the consequences or deemed it inadvisable to continue overtures.

To Mr. Reynolds' letter Mr. Ankney replied on April 24 setting forth the advantages Dayton offered as a convention city and the inducements offered by the Greater Dayton Association to secure the gathering. The first paragraph of Ankney's letter reads as follows:

"Your letter of April 22 is at hand. In all of our dealings with convention organizations we assume a strictly judicial attitude. The fact that your Federation is an anti-Catholic organization would have no influence with us. We are planning to render some service to a Catholic society which is to meet here this summer. We are just as willing to render service to a non-Catholic body."

There was no suspicion of trouble. No evidence of untoward events. The proposition made by the Greater Dayton Association was accepted and an enthusiastic host of delegates began to move toward Dayton from every direction. D. J. Reynolds left his home in Minneapolis confident that all indications were for a successful and well organized convention.

Rome's Vicious Thrust

But Rome never sleeps. With open eyes, keen ears and well trained minds her obedient children were alive, alert and active. D. J. Reynolds was handed the following telegram on board train thirty miles from Dayton:

September 11, 1915.  
D. J. Reynolds, Pres.  
American Federation of Patriotic Societies, Minneapolis, Minn.

The Greater Dayton Association hereby withdraws from agreement of July 27, 1915, covering convention of the American Federation of Patriotic Societies proposed to be held in Dayton, Ohio, September 16, 17, 18. All proposed arrangements for the convention have been abandoned. Confirmation by mail.

The Greater Dayton Association. J. M. GUILD, Executive Secretary. R. W. MENTEL, Convention Mgr.

Another thunderbolt was hurled by Rome. The Greater Dayton As-

sociation had broken its agreement with the Federation without warning and at the last minute. A more infamous piece of treachery than the San Francisco affair. The cloven hoof of Rome had been withheld from view with cunning wile until the last moment.

Did Ankney stand from under when Reynolds gave him a chance at the opening of the game? Did he know the trap that was being set by Rome? Did he realize the intensity of papal hate?

With inexcusable ignorance of the nature and spirit of the organization he represented, and with unpardonable lack of knowledge of the sinister influences controlling its members, or with MALICIOUS TREACHERY he allowed arrangements to be perfected and even encouraged the coming of the Federation to his city.

A ROMANIZED BODY USED ANKNEY AS A HANDY TOOL. The Greater Dayton Association stooped to the lowest depths of perfidy in perpetrating such an infamous outrage.

No citizen of that city nor any member of the organization which Ankney represents, who is worthy of being called a patriot, should countenance for one minute nor hesitate to condemn every person who was even remotely responsible for this diabolical Jesuit trick.

Papal Gun Missed Fire

When the above telegram was delivered to Mr. Reynolds it was too late to think of other arrangements; too late to notify the delegates; too late to call the convention off. The delegates were on their way to Dayton and the convention HAD TO BE HELD IN THAT CITY. It WAS held in Dayton in spite of Rome, the Greater Dayton Association and Ankney.

Was it a Romish plot, conceived in iniquity and carried through with Jesuit cunning? Here is further evidence of the care taken by Rome to prevent the convention from assembling.

When the delegates went to the hotel which had been secured as headquarters they were informed by the management that no preparation had been made to care for them. The management had been told by the Greater Dayton Association, DAYS BEFORE, that there would be no convention in that city. Every available place of meeting was closed against the Federation. The owners had been "seen."

Was it a Romish plot? How can any sane person doubt that the deal was hatched and hovered from the beginning with the intention and determination to betray the Federation and utterly demoralize its plans?

A council of war was held at once and quick action followed. The patriots who had assembled in Dayton to find their plans in ruins as the result of Romish intimidation, intrigue and devilishness, were far from whipped. They were men trained for action against a conscienceless foe.

But all Dayton was not arrayed against them. There were other organizations than the Greater Dayton Association. The Freemasons came nobly to the rescue and opened their commodious Temple to the Federation and the conven-

## HEART TO HEART TALK WITH FRIENDS

BY WALTER HURT



IN the vast army of *Menace* readers are a host who are my particular and faithful friends, who have been such for years. Many of these are known to me personally, while many more know me only through my writings. In either case, all are on the same level of strong personal loyalty—our friendship has been cemented enduringly, through many constant years. Knowing these friends as I do, I know also that most of them inevitably are in the ranks of *Menace* workers—foremost on the firing line.

While addressing *The Menace* family as a whole, it is to these friends of mine that I am speaking most directly. I wish to make plain to them why I have joined *The Menace* forces and what manner of work we have immediately before us.

Rome has launched at *The Menace* the lightnings of her hate. Four members of this paper's executive staff—each a pillar of power to the cause—have, at the instigation of Romish knaves, been indicted in the Federal court. Simultaneously, there was an alarming slump in *The Menace* circulation. Subscriptions dropped off by the thousands, as frost cuts leaves from the forest trees. Hampered and crippled by every form of infernal interference which the devilish ingenuity of the enemy could devise, *The Menace* management has been powerless to stem this tide of disaster.

My present mission is to help save from prison these four friends upon whom the harlot of the hard heart and the heavy hand would visit her vengeance. A veteran of many battles in freedom's cause, I had hoped my fighting days were over; and I return to the firing line after years of retirement with no sense of pleasure in the conflict—only a sense of duty to be done. I have desired nothing else so much as peace and serenity, feeling I had earned my rest from combat; but I find here a contest that is terribly necessary, and so I take up arms again without complaint.

The trial is close at hand. We shall find ourselves beset by all of Rome's marvelous resourcefulness, all her militant strength will be marshalled against us. We can not hope for victory if we go into court with depleted ranks, with a faltering fighting force, with every appearance of having a white flag ready for the hoisting. Nor will there be any compromising. We can expect no mercy if we flinch a hairbreadth or waver for an instant. The only hope lies in defiance and a deathless resistance. Nor would we wish it otherwise; better destruction than surrender. So, to avert defeat *The Menace* host must present a front that is invincible, a battle array that shall be numerically appalling.

To this end we have undertaken to raise *The Menace* subscription list to 1,500,000 within three months. This is a stupendous task, stupefying in its proportions, a thing to stagger the imagination; but it is not impossible—and I have a habit of making good. You always have helped me make good in the past, and I know you are not going to fail me now. That full faith in my friends which ever has been justified abides with me still.

Anyway, this is not a question of what should be done, but of what MUST be done.

Now, this is the thing I want you to do: That within a week each of you shall send at least four subscriptions to *The Menace*. Your response, upon which everything depends, will put us over the summit of our aim and success will be assured.

For sake of justice and freedom I have left my home, put aside important personal interests, and forsaken my work in the daily newspaper field, to become a target for Rome's envenomed shafts. These things have I done willingly, and I know that just as willingly you will do the little I ask of you.

Friends, this is a call to arms, and with completest confidence I await your response—a response that shall thrill our ranks like the sound of a war-blown trumpet, like the flash of a lifted sword!

tion went forward in spite of papal perfidy and pernicious mistreatment.

Dayton Journal Doped

Even the press of Dayton is so thoroughly Romanized that advertisements, programs, etc., were butchered until they were ineffective. Typographical errors crept in with studied care and destroyed the significance of events and cloaked noted names in obscurity by the use of a wrong letter. These inaccuracies appeared BEFORE the date of the convention. On September 17, the middle day of the convention, the *Dayton Journal* had not one line in which the convention was mentioned in any way. The Federation was UTTERLY IGNORED, yet the *Journal* of September 17 contained nearly three-quarters of a page of matter favorable to the Roman Catholic church. A Catholic normal school was dedicated with Archbishop Moeller presiding and the account was spread on the first, seventh and ninth pages including nearly a third of a page of half-tone pictures of the clergy, buildings, etc.

Rome gets anything she wants in Dayton, but patriotic American citizens of national reputation had to fight for accommodation.

The Greater Dayton Association is marked as with a scarlet letter, and if that organization has any self-respecting members who had no part in or knowledge of the despicable doings of that body in this instance their heads are bowed in shame. They should withdraw from it!

Word From The Menace

When *THE MENACE* was notified of the contemptible trick that was played upon the Federation, we knew that Reynolds would call Rome's hand in some way. No fear was entertained for the outcome of the incident, for brilliant minds and brave hands were there to carry the fight through to a successful finish. The following telegram was sent to cheer them on and

let them know that we were with them in the fight:

Aurora, Mo., Sept. 15, 1915.  
To D. J. Reynolds  
And the Federation of Patriotic Societies in Convention Assembled at Dayton, Ohio, Greeting:

The announcement that your body had been barred from every place of meeting after assurances reiterated that you would be welcome in spite of Rome's intense hatred of the cause you represent comes as a sinister warning that the fury of Rome will not be assuaged until our guns are silenced and the spirit of freedom and justice is broken and destroyed. After the treatment accorded your body by the management of the Panama-Pacific Exposition it seemed that there could be no doubt of Rome's determination to absolutely control the thought and deed of every individual for her own aggrandizement and profit. The swift action of papal treachery and diabolical cunning in closing the doors of Dayton in your face is but an indication of the length of the Roman Catholic arm. What she has done to you and your conventions, she will do to all America. There will not be one foot of free soil nor one unfettered press in this nation if such arrogant despotism is permitted by indifference to prevail. The safety of our institutions, the sanctity of our homes, the virtue of our women and the hope of future peace and happiness is threatened foully and deeply by the most cold-blooded and unmerciful of monsters. We are facing a crisis. An enormity of iniquitous tyranny has gripped the vitals of American civilization. You are gathered in Dayton for the purpose of knitting together more closely the awakened ones who see the cloud and sense the danger. *THE MENACE* is pledged to fight to the last ditch and the last breath that this nation and all it means to its liberty-loving people may be preserved from slavery to Rome and its attendant illiteracy, oppression and degradation. We cannot permit this people to be dragged into Romish night and bound to the wheels of death. You have just felt the closing clutch of Rome. You have seen the flash of a poisoned lance that has blighted nations and swept people to despair. You know, as we know, the grim fury of papal power and the intensity of its hate, and the unwary citizens of America must be made to understand the necessity of action, before the damning and destroying influence has betrayed them beyond redemption. The hour to strike is now and we are with you. Until Rome is whipped, shorn, and her offensive influence forever removed from contact with anything which affects the peace and welfare of